GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:331
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Exploration of Mineral Resources
Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploration has remained largely untapped in the country with only 10% of the 8 lakh square km. area explored so far and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government has drawn up plans to carry out exploration work in the potential non-coal and non-fuel resource-bearing areas in the country;
(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds proposed to be spent on exploration work in said areas;
(d) whether the Government has floated global tenders inviting expressions of interest for carrying out geophysical exploration and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the resources from where funds are to be generated for exploration work?

Answer

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.331 REGARDING EXPLORATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES ASKED BY SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV AND SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL FOR ANSWER ON 08TH DECEMBER 2016

(a) to (c): GSI has covered the entire 31.4 lakh sq km of the country's mappable area by systematic geological mapping on 1:50,000 scale on the basis of which Obvious Geological Potential [OGP] area of about 8 lakh sq. km has been identified. Of the identified OGP area, GSI has covered 3.17 lakh sq. km. and 1.9 lakh sq. km. by National Geochemical Mapping and National Geophysical Mapping respectively. Further, for accelerating exploration especially targeting deep-seated and concealed mineral deposits over the obvious geological potential areas, the National Mineral Exploration Policy [NMEP] has been approved by the Government in July, 2016. The NMEP is available on the website of Ministry of Mines (http://mines.nic.in/writereaddata/Content/NMEP.pdf). The NMEP proposes, inter-alia, to attract private exploration agencies through revenue sharing mechanism, carry out aerogeophysical mapping of the country, make available baseline data free of cost as public good, collate and share data of various exploration agencies. The amount estimated for implementing NMEP in the next five years is about Rs.2116 crore. This is proposed to be funded from the regular annual budget of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of Ministry of Mines, and additional funds from National Mineral Exploration Trust and budgetary support by the Central Government.

(d) & (e): GSI has initiated a National Aerogeophysical Mapping Program over the Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) areas covering an area of about 8 lakh sq. km for acquiring the baseline magnetic and spectrometric data. This project with an estimated cost of ?352 crore will be funded through the National Mineral Exploration Trust and is planned to be completed by 2019. The project aims at, inter alia, identifying targets for concealed and deep seated mineral deposits. By April 2017, survey over an area of about 2.05 lakh sq. km is planned to be carried out for which GSI has floated global tender notice for engaging Service Provider(s) at an estimated cost of ?90 crore for carrying out multisensory aerogeophysical surveys.

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